



St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
McHenry, IL



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## Weekly ePistle ~ April 1, 2020

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### *From Deacon Deborah*

On the Episcopal Relief and Development web page, there are numerous resources for churches experiencing a disaster. One of the resources is a graph entitled Emotional Life Cycle of Disaster. One can clearly see how we process events that we do not want and that disrupt our lives. It begins with the Heroic phase where emotion is high in the prospect of overcoming all. This phase leads to the Honeymoon phase where community cohesion is high and we are "all in this together". After the Honeymoon there is a steady decline in emotional energy as we work through Disillusionment. There is disappointment as the return to normal takes longer and is harder than expected.

We are aware that stay-at-home conditions will very likely last through the month of April. At this time I think it is important that we are mindful of how this extended time apart impacts us emotionally and spiritually. The temptation toward disillusionment is very real. We must be intentional in guarding against it.

Today I took a walk around my garden. Much of it looks like the dead and broken remnants of last year's growth. To my delight, amid the dried leaves, I saw the green shoots of phlox, daisies and even the peonies are sprouting. It was a very real reminder of the promise of life that is unchanging and eternal. This is the deep truth of who we are as the people of God. Our friends, family and neighbors need to hear this Good News. We are the bearers of this news. Friends remember who you are. Remember to whom you belong. Be the light, the love and the hope this world needs.

In Christ,  
Deacon Deborah

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## ***Words from Wardens***

Hello all,

This is indeed a bizarre and strange time to live in. Life has changed so much recently it's easy to feel like reality is getting away from you. I want to highlight how many stories of heroism are arising from our human race rising to this new challenge before us. It's encouraging to see families helping neighbors and businesses changing their operations to help the cause. Many, many wonderful acts happening behind this curtain of confusion that can be blinding. The Lord's works continue in non-traditional ways.

If you have spent any time on social media recently or have seen any celebrities on the television saying "we are all in this together", I urge you to think about that for just a moment. I myself am astounded that this pandemic is world wide, and absolutely no one (or no area) is immune to the situation. We truly are all in this together; imagine this conversation occurring today in the south of Africa, in the outback of Australia, in the Middle East, everywhere. It's quite an overwhelming thought.

In that same thought however, I find there to be a binding silver lining: Faith... It's true we are all in this together, and I believe that it's everyone's faith that is binding us together during this difficult time and those stories of heroism I mentioned earlier are a product of exactly that. Many have faith in the Lord or faith in their families or simply faith in trying to survive and most, I would think, have faith in all of the above.

Hold onto your faith and love, this too shall pass and soon we will be together again.

Prayerfully,

Jeffrey Zabor (Junior Warden)

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### ***Readings for this Sunday, April 5th*** **Palm Sunday, Year A**

Collect: Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

#### *The Liturgy of the Palms*

The First Lesson: Matthew 21:1-11  
At the Procession: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

#### *The Liturgy of the Word*

The First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
The Response: Psalm 31:9-16  
The Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11  
The Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27:66

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### **Prayer for St. Paul's**

Merciful and loving God, we hold before you this parish, our beloved St. Paul's, and ask you to bless us with the courage to preach and live the Good News of your love, your healing, and your forgiveness. Guide us to be seeking you in all that we do; to be serving others in your name; and to be growing in your image. Give us, we pray, open hearts, open minds, and open doors to receive and welcome all who come here, that we may be as Christ to them as we are Christ to one another. All this we ask in the holy name of Jesus.

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Even though we can't be together on Sunday mornings, there are a number of ways to **worship online**:

The **National Cathedral** Holy Eucharist is on Sunday at 10:15 am. You may view it **here**.

**St. Ann's Woodstock** is also hosting worship online. Here's how to view:

Tune into Facebook Live on St. Ann's Facebook page:  
www.facebook.com/StAnnsEpiscopal.Woodstock (or click **here**) at 10 a.m. tomorrow, Sunday March 29th, to view a live stream of worship; *you do not need a Facebook account to view this* (simply click "**not now**" if you are prompted to open a Facebook account).

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### ***Bishop Lee's Sermon***

from Sunday, March 29th

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=wxh54Qj7LUs&feature=youtu.be>

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### **We Are Still the Hands and Heart of Jesus: A Message from Bishop Lee**

Bishop Jeffrey Lee of Chicago speaks about the COVID-19 pandemic and how the people of the church can continue to be the hands and heart of Jesus when we are not able to meet in person.

<https://episcopalchicago.org/we-are-still-the-hands-and-heart-of-jesus-a-message-from-bishop-lee/>

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### ***Helpful Websites***

Below are links from Bishop Curry, Bishop Lee, and others that you may find helpful:

**Episcopal News Service.** Bishop Curry's news is posted here along with Episcopal news from around the country. Subscribe: <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/>

**Chicago Diocese website.** Bishop Lee posts his videos and letters here along with other diocese news. Very good general resource. <https://episcopalchicago.org/>

**Leadership News from Chicago Diocese:** From the diocese home page there is a link to subscribe to the newsletter. Updates come regularly and are informative.

**Episcopal Relief and Development.** Link to supportive resources:  
<https://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-we-do/us-disaster-program/remoteministry/>

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** <https://www.cdc.gov/>

**World Health Organization:** <https://www.who.int/>

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### ***St. Paul's Prayer List***

Please keep those on our prayer list in your thoughts during this time. If you wish to add to the list, please contact the church office.

**Ongoing prayers:** Yasmin, Kay, Edna, Ann, Amy, Tim, Bren, Brady, Jim, Marty, Barb, Marianne, Jim, Lucy, Vic, and Cindy

**Current prayers:** Michelle, Jenn, Bonnie, Stacy, Jeff, Keith, Shane, Patty, Judy, Tony, Christina, Dorothy, Michael, and Debbie

**For those celebrating birthdays:** Angela Lang

**For those who have died:** Betty

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### ***Pledges***

1st quarter pledge statements will be sent out soon. In the meantime, please continue to stay up to date on your pledges. If you normally pay your pledges in person on Sunday morning, consider mailing them in, or you can set up an automatic payment through your bank.

Local food pantries are in need of cash donations as shut downs impact the financial stability of many in our community:

Pioneer Center  
Turning Point  
Home of the Sparrow  
Fish Food Pantry

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### ***Questions or concerns?***

Please contact our Wardens - Beth Lukas (Senior Warden)  
or Jeffrey Zabor (Junior Warden).

### ***In need of pastoral care?***

Please contact Deborah Lang, our Deacon.

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### Quick Links

*Diocese of Chicago  
Episcopal News Service  
Episcopal Cafe  
Lectionary Calendar  
Forward Day by Day*

### Vestry Minutes

*January 2020  
February 2020*

St Paul's Episcopal Church | 3706 W. Saint Paul Avenue, McHenry, IL 60050

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